United Nations A/63/596

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 13 and 18

**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development**

**The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan**

## Letter dated 10 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to transmit a joint declaration of the Foreign Ministers and Deputy Ministers of France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Nagorno-Karabakh (see annex). The declaration was adopted at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) ministerial meeting held on 4 December 2008, in Helsinki.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 13 and 18.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

08-64476 (E) 151208

## Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Joint declaration of the Foreign Ministers and Deputy Ministers of France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Nagorno-Karabakh

Helsinki, 4 December 2008

We, the Foreign Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries — France, Russia, and the United States — call on the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to build on the positive momentum established during the meeting of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Moscow on 2 November 2008. The Moscow Declaration signed that same day opened a new and promising phase in our shared endeavour to expand peace in the South Caucasus. In that declaration, the Presidents reaffirm their commitment to advancing a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the framework of the Basic Principles developed by the Minsk Group Co-Chairs in collaboration with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of their proposals advanced last year in Madrid.

We call on the parties to work with the Co-Chairs to finalize the Basic Principles in coming months, and then begin drafting a comprehensive peace settlement as outlined by those agreed principles. In keeping with the Moscow Declaration, we call on the parties to work with the Co-Chairs to develop confidence-building measures, beginning with pulling back snipers from the Line of Contact to save lives of innocent civilians and soldiers, as our mediators already proposed to the sides at the highest level during the last visit in mid-November. It is urgent that the parties work with each other, the Co-Chairs, and the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to stabilize the ceasefire through this and other measures. We reiterate our firm view that there is no military solution to the conflict and call on the parties to recommit to a peaceful resolution.